

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON  
TORT REFORM**

Tuesday, March 14, 2006                      9:30 a.m.                      Rooms 502/519, House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Tort Reform was called to order by the Chair, Representative Elsenheimer.

Members present: Representatives Elsenheimer, Kahn, Gaffney, Huizenga, Hune, Adamini, McConico.

Members absent/excused: Representative Bieda.

Chairman Elsenheimer welcomed Governor John Engler, via video conference from Washington D.C., to make a presentation to the committee regarding the history of tort reform in Michigan. Mr. Engler is currently the president of the National Association of Manufactures. As a member of the Michigan Legislature and Governor in the 1980's and 90's Mr. Engler was involved in the various tort reforms adopted in Michigan.

Mr. Engler spoke to the committee about medical malpractice reforms in 1986 and 1993; product liability reforms enacted in 1995; and changes to joint and several liability. Mr. Engler also commented on Michigan being on the leading edge of expert witness reforms; other states participating in tort reforms; caps on contingency fees; the loser pays system; how tort reforms affect insurance rates; and the economic impact of tort reforms.

Mr. Engler then took questions from committee members.

Representative Kahn moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2006. Representative Gaffney supported the motion. There being no objection the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Representative Adamini moved to excuse the absence of Representative Bieda. Representative McConico supported the motion. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

There being no further business before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

**Representative Kevin Elsenheimer, Chair** \_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Simon, Committee Clerk  
House Tort Reform Committee, (517) 373-0015